

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for performing cryptographic operations on network data, the system comprising:
an input interface configured to receive data into the system, to receive control information, wherein a predetermined algorithm is based on the control information, and to forward the control information to a plurality of processors to perform respective cryptographic operations according to the predetermined algorithm;
[[a]]the plurality of processors in a cascaded arrangement, each processor having an input coupled to the input interface and an output coupled to respective inputs of each of the other processors downstream in the arrangement, the processors each configured to perform respective cryptographic operations on the data;
wherein the plurality of processors comprises a first processor having an output coupled with a first input of a second processor and a first input of a third processor;
wherein the first processor can be configured to compress uncompressed data and to decompress compressed data;
wherein the second processor comprises an output coupled with a second input of the third processor and can be configured to obscure non-secure data and decipher secure data input;
wherein the third processor can be configured to hash the data; and
an output interface coupled to the input interface and to the output of each of the processors, the output interface configured to transmit data out of the system and to direct the data through the system in coordination with the input interface according to [[a]]the predetermined algorithm.
2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of processors comprises:

~~[[a]]the first processor having its data inputs coupled only to the input interface, the first processor configured to compress uncompressed data and to decompress compressed data.~~

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the first processor is configured to compress and decompress the data according to at least one of a Lempel-Ziv-Stac (LZS) and an Adaptive Lossless Data Compression (ALDC) compression algorithm.
4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the plurality of processors comprises:
~~[[a]]the second processor having a [[first]] second input coupled to the input interface and a second input coupled to an output of the first processor, the second processor configured to obscure non-secure data and to decipher secure data.~~
5. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the second processor is configured to obscure and decipher the data according to at least one of a Data Encryption Standard (DES), a Triple-DES, and an Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) algorithm.
6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4, wherein the plurality of processors comprises:
~~[[a]]the third processor having a [[first]]third input coupled to the input interface, a second input coupled to an output of the first processor, and a third input coupled to an output of the second processor, the third processor configured to determine an integrity of the data.~~
7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the third processor is configured to determine the integrity by hashing the data according to at least one of a Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA-1) and a Message Data 5 (MD5) algorithm.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the predetermined algorithm is based on control information included in a security association related to the data.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[9]]1, wherein the control information includes at least one of:
an identity of an authentication algorithm used to hash the data;
an identity of an encryption algorithm used to obscure and decipher the data;
keying material used by at least one of the authentication and encryption algorithms; and
a lifetime of the security association related to the data.
11. (Original) The system of claim 1, comprising:
logic configured to determine a checksum associated with the data transmitted out of the system.
12. (Currently Amended) A method for performing cryptographic operations on network data, the method comprising:
receiving, by an input interface, data and control information, wherein a predetermined algorithm is based on the control information;
forwarding, by the input interface, the control information to a cascaded arrangement of processors to perform respective cryptographic operations according to the predetermined algorithm;
directing, by an output interface via coordination between the input interface and the output interface, the received data through [[a]]the cascaded arrangement of processors according to [[a]]the predetermined algorithm, each processor having an input coupled to the received data and an output coupled to respective inputs of each of the other processors downstream in the arrangement, wherein directing the received data through the cascaded arrangement of processors comprises

directing the received data through the cascaded arrangement comprising a first processor, a second processor having a first input coupled with the output of the first processor, and a third processor having a first input coupled with the output of the first processor and a second input coupled with the output of the second processor;

performing, by the cascaded arrangement of processors, respective cryptographic operations defined by the predetermined algorithm on the received data ~~using the plurality of processors, wherein the predetermined algorithm defines performance of at least one cryptographic operation from a group of cryptographic operations comprising compressing or decompressing the received data, obscuring or deciphering the received data, and hashing the received data;~~ and transmitting, by the output interface, the operated-on data after performing the cryptographic operations defined by the predetermined algorithm.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, comprising:
compressing uncompressed received data and decompressing compressed received data using [[a]]the first processor in the cascaded arrangement having its data inputs coupled only to the received data.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13, comprising:
compressing and decompressing the received data according to at least one of a Lempel-Ziv-Stac (LZS) and an Adaptive Lossless Data Compression (ALDC) compression algorithm.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, comprising:
obscuring non-secure data and deciphering secure data using [[a]]the second processor in the cascaded arrangement having a [[first]]second input coupled to the received data ~~and a second input coupled to an output of the first processor.~~
16. (Original) The method of claim 15, comprising:

obscuring and deciphering the data according to at least one of a Data Encryption Standard (DES), a Triple-DES, and an Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) algorithm.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, comprising:
determining an integrity of the data using ~~[[a]]~~the third processor in the cascaded arrangement having a ~~[[first]]~~third input coupled to the received data, ~~a second input coupled to an output of the first processor, and a third input coupled to an output of the second processor.~~
18. (Original) The method of claim 17, comprising:
hashing the data to determine the integrity according to at least one of a Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA-1) and a Message Data 5 (MD5) algorithm.
19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
determining the predetermined algorithm based on control information included in a security association related to the received data.
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[20]]~~12, comprising:
including in the control information at least one of:
an identity of an authentication algorithm used to hash the data;
an identity of an encryption algorithm used to obscure and decipher the data;
keying material used by at least one of the authentication and encryption algorithms; and
a lifetime of the security association related to the data.
22. (Original) The method of claim 12, comprising:
determining a checksum associated with the transmitted data.

23. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer-readable medium containing a computer program~~ computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having a computer readable program for performing cryptographic operations on network data, wherein the ~~computer program comprises executable instructions for~~ readable program when executed on a computer causes the computer to perform operations comprising:
- receiving, by an input interface, data and control information, wherein a predetermined algorithm is based on the control information;
- forwarding, by the input interface, the control information to a cascaded arrangement of processors to perform respective cryptographic operations according to the predetermined algorithm;
- directing, by an output interface via coordination between the input interface and the output interface, the received data through [[a]]the cascaded arrangement of processors according to [[a]]the predetermined algorithm, each processor having an input coupled to the received data and an output coupled to respective inputs of each of the other processors downstream in the arrangement, wherein directing the received data through the cascaded arrangement of processors comprises directing the received data through the cascaded arrangement comprising a first processor, a second processor having a first input coupled with the output of the first processor, and a third processor having a first input coupled with the output of the first processor and a second input coupled with the output of the second processor;
- performing, by the cascaded arrangement of processors, respective cryptographic operations defined by the predetermined algorithm on the received data using the plurality of processors, wherein the predetermined algorithm defines performance of at least one cryptographic operation from a group of cryptographic operations comprising compressing or decompressing the received data, obscuring or deciphering the received data, and hashing the received data; and
- transmitting, by the output interface, the operated-on data after performing the cryptographic operations defined by the predetermined algorithm.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer readable medium~~computer program product of claim 23, wherein the computer readable program comprises executable instructions for: compressing uncompressed received data and decompressing compressed received data using ~~[[a]]~~the first processor in the arrangement having its data inputs coupled only to the received data;
- obscuring non-secure data and deciphering secure data using ~~[[a]]~~the second processor in the arrangement having a ~~[[first]]~~second input coupled to the received data ~~and a second input coupled to an output of the first processor~~; and
- determining an integrity of the data using ~~[[a]]~~the third processor in the arrangement having a ~~[[first]]~~third input coupled to the received data, ~~a second input coupled to an output of the first processor, and a third input coupled to an output of the second processor.~~
25. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer readable medium~~computer program product of claim 24, wherein the computer readable program comprises executable instructions for: compressing and decompressing the received data according to at least one of a Lempel-Ziv-Stac (LZS) and an Adaptive Lossless Data Compression (ALDC) compression algorithm;
- obscuring and deciphering the data according to at least one of a Data Encryption Standard (DES), a Triple-DES, and an Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) algorithm; and
- hashing the data to determine the integrity according to at least one of a Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA-1) and a Message Data 5 (MD5) algorithm.
26. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer readable medium~~computer program product of claim 23, wherein the computer readable program comprises executable instructions for: determining the predetermined algorithm based on control information included in a security association related to the received data;
- ~~receiving the control information; and~~

~~forwarding the control information to each of the processors for use in performing the
respective cryptographic operations on the data.~~

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer readable medium~~computer program product of claim 23, wherein the computer readable program comprises executable instructions for: determining a checksum associated with the transmitted data.